



Chronology of Critical Habitat Events

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| February 2000 | NOAA Fisheries Service designates “critical habitat” for 19 salmon and steelhead populations in Washington, Oregon and California. |
| May 2002 | A federal appeals court rules in a case involving a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that economic factors must be considered when an agency makes critical habitat designations under the Endangered Species Act. |
| March 2002 | Because a pending lawsuit challenging NOAA Fisheries Service’s salmon critical habitat designation is so similar to the Fish and Wildlife’s case, NOAA asks a federal district court to approve the agency’s request to withdraw its current critical habitat designations. |
| April 2002 | The court approves the agency’s request; critical habitat designations under the ESA for 19 populations of salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon and California are officially withdrawn. NOAA Fisheries Service immediately embarks on a new analysis of critical habitat that will consider economic factors of such designations, in keeping with the appeals court’s opinion. |
| July 2002 | PCFFA sends a 60-day notice of intent to sue over lack of critical habitat designations. |
| September 2003 | NOAA Fisheries Service enters consent decree establishing deadlines for proposed and final designations. |
| November 2004 | NOAA Fisheries Service releases its proposed critical habitat designation and invites public comment. |
| August 2005 | NOAA Fisheries Service issues its final rule on critical habitat designation. |